



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
NORTH CAROLINA STATE CONFERENCE**

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Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II
President

Amina J. Turner
Executive Director

May 31, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

Today, the North Carolina Conference of the NAACP issued the attached news release in which we take a stand alongside the national organization in supporting AT&T's proposed merger with T-Mobile.

Wireless devices, powered by mobile broadband, are the keys to a broader world of economic opportunity, education achievement and community empowerment for people of color. Wireless broadband is an integral tool in promoting civic engagement and voter empowerment. This proposed combination has the tremendous potential for dramatically reducing the economic and technological barriers that exist in under-served rural and low-income urban areas.

Wireless network congestion is looming like a tidal wave over the African-American community, threatening to wipe away the potential that broadband offers. By delivering more wireless broadband to more people, this merger should help assure that our community's potential becomes reality.

The NAACP compiles an annual report card of communications companies and AT&T has consistently graded at the top. In addition, AT&T has long been a reliable friend of workers' rights and of union participation. As we consider this proposed merger against that record, we see a very real potential for our communities to benefit significantly from this deal. We ask that the benefits to consumers and businesses not be lost due to delays or other tactics that would slow the expansion of broadband in North Carolina and across the country.

Sincerely,


Rev. Dr. William J. Barber, II
President

Enclosure



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***AT&T Purchase of T-Mobile Could Significantly Benefit African-Americans,
Dr. Barber says***

DURHAM- Dr. William J Barber, President of the North Carolina Conference of the NAACP, said today that African-Americans should pay close attention to AT&T's proposed purchase of T-Mobile.

"There is a very real potential for our communities to benefit significantly from this deal," he said. "We need to be vigilant that the benefits to consumers and businesses are not lost due to delays or other tactics that would slow the expansion of broadband in North Carolina."

"The NC-NAACP stands with the national NAACP in its support of the AT&T acquisition of T-Mobile," he said. "The NAACP grades telecommunications companies and AT&T has consistently ranked at the top. In addition, AT&T has long been a reliable friend of workers' rights and of union participation."

AT&T is making a \$39 billion bid to purchase T-Mobile USA from Deutsche Telekom. The company has begun the process of seeking regulatory approval of the proposed acquisition from the Federal Communications Commission. In addition, Congress is conducting hearings on the proposal.

Dr. Barber said FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski said in a speech earlier this year that "minority and low-income groups ... are more likely than the average American to access the Internet through a mobile device." As a result, AT&T's commitment to expand its high speed wireless technology to more than 97% of the U.S. population, including rural and smaller communities, is disproportionately important to African-American consumers and businesses.

"The wireless device, powered by mobile broadband, is the key to a broader world of economic opportunity, education achievement and community empowerment for people of color," Dr. Barber said. "Wireless broadband is an integral tool in promoting civic engagement and as

such is crucial to voter empowerment. This proposed combination has the tremendous potential for dramatically reducing the economic and technological barriers that exist in underserved rural and low-income urban areas."

Reverend Barber shares Chairman Genachowski's concern for the impact of network congestion and the associated implications as more people use their wireless devices for more than simple phone calls, but believes that "AT&T's record of partnership with the community will mean continued collaboration to create the best outcome for consumers. We know that the first step is to deliver more broadband to more people, and this merger should help to ensure that broadband's potential becomes a reality across all of North Carolina." Dr. Barber said. "By delivering more broadband to more people, this merger should help assure that broadband's potential becomes reality across North Carolina."

Founded in 1909, the NAACP is the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization. Its members throughout the United States and the world are the premier advocates for civil rights in their communities, conducting voter mobilization and monitoring equal opportunity in the public and private sectors. For more information, call the State Office at 866-626-2227 or e-mail us at execdirnaacpnc@gmail.com. ###